

MSFMP Environmental Document Table of Contents

Chapter 1. Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action.....	1
1.1 Introduction.....	1
1.2 Location and General Characteristics of the Project Area	2
1.3 Scope of the Environmental Document	3
1.3.1 Proposed Action	3
1.3.2 California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).....	3
1.3.3 Scoping Process.....	4
1.3.4 Public Review and Certification of the Environmental Document	5
1.4 Consultation and Coordination.....	6
1.5 Laws and Regulations	6
1.5.1 Marine Life Management Act.....	7
1.5.2 Federal Laws	7
Chapter 2. Project Description and Alternatives.....	9
Project Options Analyzed in the Environmental Document	9
2.1 Fishery Control Rule.....	12
2.1.1 Seasonal Catch Limitation.....	12
2.1.2 Daily Trip Limits for Vessels Landing Squid	13
2.1.3 Weekend Closure	14
2.1.4 Live Bait Fishery and Incidental Catch of Market Squid	14
2.2 Harvest Replenishment Areas	15

2.3. Restricted Access.....	16
2.3.1 Limited Entry/Capacity Goals	16
2.3.2 Initial Issuance of Market Squid Fleet Permits.....	18
2.3.3 Transferability of Market Squid Permits (options K, L, M)	19
2.3.4 Market Squid Brail Permit Transfer Options	20
2.3.5 Market Squid Light Boat Permit Transfer Options.....	20
2.4 Other Ecological Concerns	20
2.4.1 Lighting Gear Restrictions	21
2.4.2 Area and Time Closures to Address Seabird Disturbance	22
Chapter 3. Affected Environment	24
3.1 Air Quality.....	24
3.2 Water Quality.....	27
3.3 Geology.....	32
3.4 Physical Oceanography.....	34
3.5 Coastal Habitat	36
3.6 Benthic Habitat.....	41
3.7 Pelagic Habitat.....	42
3.8 Areas of Special Concern	43
3.8.1 Essential Fish Habitat (EFH)	43
3.8.2 State Marine Managed Areas	44
3.8.3 National Marine Sanctuaries.....	46
3.9 Threatened and Endangered Species.....	50
3.9.1 Protected or Listed Marine Mammals in California Waters.....	51
3.9.1.1 Marine Mammal Protection Act and Current Fishery Categories.....	51

3.9.1.2 Humpback Whale, <i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>	54
3.9.1.3 Northern Right Whale, <i>Eubalaena glacialis</i>	55
3.9.1.4 Sperm Whale, <i>Physeter macrocephalus</i>	55
3.9.1.5 Sei Whale, <i>Balaenoptera borealis</i>	55
3.9.1.6 Fin Whale, <i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>	56
3.9.1.7 Blue Whale, <i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>	56
3.9.1.8 Harbor Porpoise, <i>Phocoena phocoena</i>	56
3.9.1.9 Steller (Northern) Sea Lion, <i>Eumetopias jubatus</i>	57
3.9.1.10 Guadalupe Fur Seal, <i>Arctocephalus townsendi</i>	57
3.9.1.11 Northern Elephant Seal, <i>Mirounga angustirostris</i>	57
3.9.1.12 Southern Sea Otter, <i>Enhydra lutris</i>	58
3.9.2 Listed Marine and Coastal Birds in California Waters	58
3.9.2.1 California Brown Pelican, <i>Pelecanus occidentalis californicus</i>	61
3.9.2.2 California Least Tern, <i>Sterna antillarum browni</i>	62
3.9.2.3 Marbled Murrelets, <i>Brachyramphus marmoratus</i>	62
3.9.2.4 Bald Eagle, <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	63
3.9.2.5 Xantus's Murrelets, <i>Synthliboramphus hypoleucus</i>	64
3.9.2.6 Rhinoceros Auklets, <i>Cerorhinca monocerata</i>	66
3.9.2.7 Ashy, Black, and Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels; <i>Oceanodroma homochroa</i> , <i>O. melania</i> , <i>O. furcata</i>	66
3.9.2.8 Double-Crested Cormorant, <i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>	68
3.9.2.9 Black Skimmer, <i>Rynchops niger</i>	69
3.9.2.10 Elegant Tern, <i>Sterna elegans</i>	69
3.9.2.11 Black Tern, <i>Chlidonias niger</i>	69

3.9.2.12 California Gull, <i>Larus californicus</i>	69
3.9.2.13 Tufted Puffin, <i>Fratercula cirrhata</i>	70
3.9.2.14 Common Loon, <i>Gavia artica</i>	70
3.9.2.15 Western Snowy Plover <i>Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus</i>	71
3.9.3 Listed Marine Turtles in California Waters.....	71
3.9.3.1 Green Sea Turtle, <i>Chelonia mydas</i>	73
3.9.3.2 Leatherback Sea Turtle, <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>	74
3.9.3.3 Loggerhead Sea Turtle, <i>Dermochelys caretta</i>	75
3.9.3.4 Olive Ridley Sea Turtle, <i>Lepidochelys olivacea</i>	75
3.9.4 Listed Fish in California Waters	76
3.9.4.1 Tidewater Goby	76
3.9.4.2 Salmon.....	76
3.10 Non-listed Species	77
3.10.1.1 Short-finned Pilot Whale <i>Globicephala macrorhynchus</i>	77
3.10.1.2 Risso's Dolphin <i>Grampus griseus</i>	78
3.10.1.3 Bottlenose Dolphin <i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	79
3.10.1.4 Pacific White-sided Dolphin <i>Lagenorhynchus obliquidens</i>	79
3.10.1.5 Short-beaked Common Dolphin <i>Delphinus delphis</i>	79
3.10.1.6 Long-beaked Common Dolphin (<i>Delphinus capensis</i>).....	80
3.10.1.7 California Sea Lion, <i>Zalophus californianus californianus</i>	80
3.10.2 Non-listed Marine and Coastal Birds.....	81
3.10.2.1 Common Murre <i>Uria aalge</i>	81
3.10.2.2 Western Gull, <i>Larus occidentalis</i>	82
3.10.2.3 Heermann's Gull <i>Larus heermanni</i>	83

3.10.2.4 Brandt's and Pelagic Cormorants; <i>Phalacrocorax penicillatus</i> , P. <i>pelagicus</i>	83
3.10.3 Non-listed Fish and Incidentally-taken Species	84
3.10.4 Market Squid <i>Loligo opalescens</i>	85
3.11 Land Use and Existing Infrastructure.....	87
3.12 Transportation.....	89
3.13 Noise	90
3.14 Utilities	91
3.15 Archaeology/Paleontology	92
Chapter 4. Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Project.....	94
4.1 Proposed Project.....	94
4.1.1 Effects to Air Quality.....	94
4.1.2 Effects to Water Quality.....	95
4.1.3 Effects to Geology.....	95
4.1.4 Effect to Physical Oceanography.....	96
4.1.5 Effects to Coastal Habitat.....	96
4.1.6 Effects to Benthic Habitat	97
4.1.7 Effects to Pelagic Habitat	98
4.1.8 Effects to Areas of Special Concern	99
4.1.9 Effects to Protected, Threatened, and Endangered Species.....	100
4.1.9.1 Effects to Protected or Listed Marine Mammals	100
4.1.9.2 Effects to Listed Marine and Coastal Birds	102
4.1.9.3 Effects to Listed Marine Turtles	111
4.1.9.4 Effects to Listed Fish.....	111

4.1.10 Effects to Non-listed Species.....	111
4.1.10.1 Effects to Non-listed Marine Mammals	112
4.1.10.2 Effects to Non-listed Marine and Coastal Birds	113
4.1.10.3 Effects to Non-listed Fish	115
4.1.10.4 Effects to Market Squid Resource	115
4.1.11 Effects to Land Use and Existing Infrastructure.....	116
4.1.12 Effects to Transportation	116
4.1.13 Effects to Noise.....	117
4.1.14 Effects to Utilities	117
4.1.15 Effects to Archeology/Paleontology	117
4.2 Potential Growth Inducing Factors	118
4.3 Significant Irreversible Environmental Effects.....	118
4.4 Short-term Uses and Long-term Productivity	118
4.5 Cumulative Effects	119
Chapter 5. Analysis of Alternatives to the Proposed Project.....	121
5.1 The No Project Alternative	121
5.1.1 Effects to Air Quality.....	122
5.1.2 Effects to Water Quality.....	122
5.1.3 Effects to Geology.....	123
5.1.4 Effects to Physical Oceanography	124
5.1.5 Effects to Coastal Habitat.....	124
5.1.6 Effects to Benthic Habitat	124
5.1.7 Effects to Pelagic Habitat	125
5.1.8 Effects to Areas of Special Concern	125

5.1.9 Effects to Protected, Threatened, and Endangered Species	125
5.1.9.1 Effects to Protected or Listed Marine Mammals	125
5.1.9.2 Effects to Listed Marine and Coastal Birds	126
5.1.9.3 Effects to Marine Turtles	130
5.1.9.4 Effects to Listed Fish.....	131
5.1.10 Effects to Non-Listed Species.....	131
5.1.10.1 Effects to Non-Listed Marine Mammals	131
5.1.10.2 Effects to Non-Listed Marine and Coastal Birds	132
5.1.10.3 Effects to Non-Listed Fish.....	133
5.1.10.4 Effects to the Market Squid Resource.....	133
5.1.11 Effects to Land Use and Existing Infrastructure.....	134
5.1.12 Effects to Transportation	135
5.1.13 Effects to Noise.....	135
5.1.14 Effects to Utilities	135
5.1.15 Effects to Archeology/Paleontology.....	135
5.2 Other Project Alternatives	135
5.2.1 Seasonal Catch Limit of 80,000 tons (A1)	135
5.2.2 Regional Catch Limit Based on Multi-Year Averages (A3)	136
5.2.3 Seasonal Catch Limit Based on Environmental Conditions (A4)	136
5.2.4 Establishing Daily Trip Limits (C1)	136
5.2.5 Establish a Permit for Live Bait and Incidental Catch (F2)	136
5.2.6 Close Areas Where Squid Spawning Occurs that are not Regularly used by Fishermen (G2).....	136
5.2.7 Capacity Goals for Vessels and Light Boats at 10 Permits Each (H1)	137

5.2.7 Capacity Goals for Vessels and Light Boats at 10 Permits Each (H1)	137
5.2.8 Capacity Goals for Vessels and Light Boats at 104 Permits Each (H3)	137
5.2.9 Initial Issuance of Market Squid Fleet Permits (I3).....	137
5.2.10 Initial Issuance of Market Squid Fleet Permits (I4).....	137
5.2.11 Market Squid Vessel Permit Transfer Option (K2)	137
5.2.12 Market Squid Brail Permit Transfer Option (L2).....	138
5.2.13 Market Squid Light Boat Permit Transfer Option (M2)	138
5.2.15 Establish Areas Closed to Squid Fishing around San Miguel, Anacapa, and Santa Barbara Islands from 1 February through 30 September (P1)	138
5.2.16 Establish Areas Closed to Squid Fishing around Anacapa and Santa Barbara Islands from 1 February through 30 September (P2)	139
5.2.17 Establish Areas Closed to Squid Fishing Using Attracting Lights around San Miguel, Anacapa, and Santa Barbara Islands from 1 February through 30 September (P3).....	139
Literature Cited.....	141
Personal Communication.....	156
List of Preparers.....	157